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INDUSTRIAL WASTE CLEANUP

Superfund cash sought

By The Times
and Times Wire Services

INDIANAPOLIS — American Chemical Services in Griffith has been nominated by the state as one of five sites needing cleanup with federal Superfund money.

In an update of the \$1.6-billion fund's national priority list, state health officials have requested the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency include the Griffith solvent recovery firm.

American Chemical Services is listed because of

past practices of burying barrels of chemicals in a landfill in the rear of the company's property, according to the board of health.

In 1980, oil leaking from the site was found to contain phenol — a known carcinogen. At the time, however, the EPA said the firm had surrounded the burial site with clay, preventing the leak from spreading.

About 2,000 drums were buried about 18 years ago at the site near Colfax Avenue, although in

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State seeks Superfund cash for Griffith firm

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1981 George Milne, a self-appointed Griffith watchdog, claimed in a report to the EPA that 25,000 to 30,000 drums and a tank were buried at the site.

Jacqueline Strecker, a Superfund coordinator for the state, said the firm's

current operation complies with state and federal waste handling laws.

James Tarpo, the firm's general manager, said a call by The Times today was the first he had heard of the matter.

Tarpo would not comment further.

Also on the state's list are Reilly Tar

and Chemical Corp. in Indianapolis; Northside Sanitary Landfill in Boone County; Bennett Stone Quarry in Monroe County; and the Norman Poer farm in Hancock County.

The sites will be considered for a new Superfund list scheduled to be published

in late July. The nominations are based on a scoring system devised by the EPA.

Each Indiana site was named because of the threat of contamination of groundwater, according to David D. Lamm, director of the land pollution control division of the health board.